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- Humanitarian Mission to Georgia

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# Editorial

Since the inception of DHA, there has been a dramatic increase in situations requiring United Nations humanitarian involvement either solely in the area of relief assistance or in conjunction with peace-making and peace-keeping. The complexity and the scale of these developments were largely unforeseen in the negotiations leading to the adoption of GA resolution 46/182. At the same time, natural disasters have continued to impose a heavy toll of casualties and damages, calling for renewed efforts in the co-ordination of relief activities.

The United Nations has had to address new as well as long-standing complex emergency situations. This experience has contributed to a better appreciation of the complexity of the issues involved in such situations and of the capacity required within the UN system in order to address these issues effectively. In looking to the future, account will need to be taken of the experiences gained and constraints encountered. In this context, other related issues, especially those pertaining to the management of humanitarian assistance at the policy and operational levels and the modalities for ensuring a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, should also be addressed.

The emergencies in the post-cold war era have highlighted the need for better interface between the relief operation and political and security considerations as their root causes are very often civil and ethnic strife. The UN leadership is critical to any viable approach towards addressing the multi-faceted aspects of these crises. Also, recent situations underline the need to re-evaluate the United Nations response and make appropriate adjustments to ensure the effectiveness of its capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance.

The central lesson of recent United Nations experience (whether in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Iraq or Mozambique) confirms the importance of the United Nations system working in a coherent and complementary manner, under the leadership of the Secretary-General. Only thus can the full impact of the combined strengths of the organizations of the system be brought to bear upon crisis situations where the UN simultaneously is addressing humanitarian as well as political and security issues. The full potential of the system, taking advantage of its considerable capacities and diverse strengths, can only be harnessed through effective leadership and co-ordination.

Depuis la création du DAH, le nombre des situations requérant une intervention humanitaire de la part de l'ONU, que ce soit uniquement au titre des secours ou en liaison avec des opérations de restauration et de maintien de la paix a augmenté de façon spectaculaire. On était loin de prévoir dans les négotiations qui ont conduit à l'adoption de la résolution 46/182 de l'Assemblée générale la complexité de ces nouvelles situations et l'échelle à laquelle elles allaient se produire. Simaitanément, des catastrophes naturelles n'ont cessé d'imposer un lourd tribut en pertes humaines et dommages, appelant la communauté internationale à redoubler d'efforts dans la coordination des secours.

Aux situations d'urgence complexes dont l'ONU s'occupe depuis longtemps sont venues s'en ajouter de nouvelles. On s'est ainsi mieux rendu compte de la complexité des questions en jeu et des moyens qu'il faudrait au système de l'ONU pour qu'il puisse réagir efficacement. En prévision de l'avenir, on devra tirer les enseignements de l'expérience acquise et des obstacles rencontrés. On devra aussi dans ce contexte se préoccuper de questions annexes, en particulier celles que posent la gestion de l'assistance humanitaire au niveau politique et opérationnel et les modalités permettant d'assurer sans à coups la transition des activités de secours aux activités de réhabilitation et de développement.

Les situations d'urgence que l'on a vu surgir dans la période qui a suivi la guerre froide ont fait ressortir la nécessité d'une meilleure corrélation entre les opérations de secours et les considérations politiques et de sécurité puisque bien souvent les causes profondes des crises tiennent à des conflits civils et à des frictions ethniques. De quelque façon qu'on aborde ces crises aux facettes multiples, le succès dependra de la manière dont est dirigée l'ONU. Les situations qui se sont développées récemment font également ressortir la nécessité de revoir comment les Nations Unies reagissent face à ces situations et de prendre les mesures appropriées pour garantir que les moyens dont dispose l'Organisation lui permettent d'apporter efficacement une aide humanitaire.

La leçon essentielle de l'expérience récente de l'ONU (qu'il s'agisse de l'ex-Yougoslavie, de la Somalie, de l'Iraq ou du Mozambique) c'est la confirmation de l'importance d'un système des Nations Unies fonctionnant de manière cohérente et complémentaire, sous la direction du Secrétaire général. C'e n'est qu'ainsi que la force combinée des organisations du système pourra pleinement faire sentir ses effets sur des situations de crise qui amènent l'ONU à s'occuper simultanément de problèmes humanitaires et de questions politiques et de sécurité. Seule une direction et une coordination efficaces permettront de mobiliser pleinement le potentiel du système et de tirer parti de la puissance et des moyens multiples et considérables dont il dispose.

# Disaster Prevention as part of the Development Process

*by Marta Dueñas*

One of the features of the Modern State, understood as the political, cultural, economic, institutional and social functional entity within which a human group evolves, is the capacity to regulate the various political, cultural, economic, social and institutional forums in the interests of its citizens. This process which takes place in space and in time is converted into development and is conducive to the establishment of social well-being. In other words, the Modern State has not only the capacity but also the obligation to programme its activities by means of work plans and logical time-frames.

Another feature of the Modern State is its capacity to act as a moderator and intermediary between progress and scientific and technological discoveries on the one hand and the social sector on the other; in other words, to facilitate and regulate the practical application of scientific discoveries and technological progress, since the present level of knowledge has amply demonstrated the close interdependence of man and nature and, within nature, the infinity of ecological systems in which human life evolves.

Moreover, the experience acquired over the last 200 years, which were marked by considerable innovations in lifestyles and culture, confirms the need to prepare, regulate and manage the various sectors of human activity in the short, medium and long term, not only because of the invaluable advantages inherent in such an arrangement but also because of the direct and indirect consequences of every kind of level, intensity and time.

**... the present level of knowledge has amply demonstrated the close interdependence of man and nature and, within nature, the infinity of ecological systems in which human life evolves ...**

The disasters, classified under two main headings, namely, natural and man-made, can be further subdivided according to their special features (earthquakes, eruptions, floods, etc.); on account of the regularity with which they occur (winter or seasonal flooding, drought); on the basis of the lack of forecasting and ignorance of the simple physical law of cause and effect, as in the case of erosion, drought or floods resulting from indiscriminate forest clearing or landfalls in open or underground mines due to the absence of retaining structures or the destruction of badly sited bridges; or on account of the abuse of this principle, or of saturation, as seen in the pollution of every kind of river, lake, area under cultivation, etc.

There is another class of disaster which might be classified as stemming from the political and historical process. The latter is dramatically reflected in two examples. The first is: the radioactive contamination generated by the civilian and military use of nuclear technology and the resultant waste chemical and toxic substances and mechanical or administrative failure as in the case of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. The second is that of the millions of refugees and displaced persons produced in the course of a

*More than twenty years ago, the potential perils to the human environment were stressed at the first world scientific conference convened by the United Nations.*

*In this picture, an irrigation expert examines a deposit of surface salt caused by the age and waterlogging on an irrigation project in the Chambal Valley, India.*

UN Photo

number of decades in the present century by wars and conflicts that are seemingly insuperable inasmuch as those persons have no say in the causes or the solutions of an aberrant situation.

Although current scientific knowledge does not allow a forecast to be made of the time and place where disasters will occur, there is sufficient knowledge and experience to enable practical measures to be taken and to lessen by preventive action the seriousness of their impact on human life as well as on infrastructure and the environment.

This is the area in which involvement and activity on the part of the modern State can combine disaster prevention mechanisms with those for the creation of economic and social infrastructure, thus paving the way for a coherent development process. To this end the following considerations are submitted:

■ Identification by an interdisciplinary analysis of the institutional changes that are indispensable in order to incorporate disaster preparedness and management criteria at all stages in the creation of economic and social infrastructure;

■ Research, testing and demonstration of scientific and technical theories in institutions of higher education in relation to progress in disaster prevention, forecasting and morphology and its incorporation in the creation of economic and social infrastructure, with proposals aimed at reducing the risk to human life as well as to infrastructure and the environment;

■ Selection of appropriate sites for the construction and location of infrastructure, avoiding the most vulnerable and exposed areas, a feasible process utilizing innovative techniques in space-based topographical mapping, producing invaluable information on urban sectors in respect of industrial production as well as the agricultural and rural sector;

■ Exchange of information and experience on techniques for the protection of human life as well as the construction and location of infrastructure;

■ Special attention should be given to the energy sector which will become a danger both to the environment and the climate and consequently a negative element in the development process should it continue to be administered on the lines of the traditional criteria applied to that sector. In order to avoid serious disasters in that vital area, it is indispensable that there should be: *(a)* a reorientation of the international energy system in the direction of a more efficient use of energy, especially at the level of the end-user

and (b) an increase in the use of sources of renewable energy. Moreover, consideration should be given to the positive synergy resulting from the reduction of flood hazards by planting energy crops on degraded and eroded land;

■ Education and information: An educated population well trained in protection, salvage and rescue operations will act efficiently for its own protection and that of the other members of the community. School programmes will need to be reviewed and updated, not only in respect of salvage and rescue techniques but also the causes and interrelations of disasters and their relationship with and consequences for the environment. Developments in the knowledge and understanding of the phenomena and technologies make a frequent updating of contents of school programmes necessary.

While natural disasters and the results of unpreparedness and/or ignorance have a negative and direct impact on the weakest and most helpless sectors of the population at the time of the event and have an indirect impact afterwards, since the latter have to endure the various consequences that these disasters bring with them, the end result is that their already precarious situation is aggravated. The adoption of specific institutional measures related to disaster prevention in all areas of the economic and social sector would produce a synergy of protection and assistance for these particularly weak and exposed sector of the population, especially in the developing countries.

**... it is not acceptable that human society, particularly in the developing countries, should be a passive witness of the relatively unpredictably occurrence of disasters that damage and destroy what has been constructed with such effort and devotion...**

The experience, technology, information and systems used in a number of industrialized countries to offset the harmful effects of certain natural disasters, to assist and relieve the population at risk as well as to reconstruct damaged infrastructure while at the same time creating protective and preventive mechanisms that have been used successfully over the last 10 years reaffirm the conviction that prevention and preparedness can be invaluable instruments for the population and countries whose geomorphological structure and geographical situation expose them at all times to disasters of various kinds, origins and frequency.

Basically, the individual and collective ability to manage and organize can be an essential ingredient in the development process. Therefore, the mechanisms used by

*Drought: an agricultural implement lies idle on the parched land.* FAO Photo

the Modern State to carry out its functions must incorporate in all its sectors of activity general and specific provisions to ensure proper management including interdisciplinary criteria for management and preparedness in respect of infrastructure, the parameters of regulating social organization and mobilizating the institutions.

Besides directly benefiting air and sea transport, the agricultural sector and even the tourist industry, the practical application of scientific and technical knowledge in meteorology makes it possible to track hurricanes, thereby dramatically lessening their disastrous effects.

DHA Photo

*Voluntary work and solidarity are very useful if properly organized*

In other words, it is not acceptable that human society, particularly in the developing countries, should be a passive witness of the relatively unpredictably occurrence of disasters that damage and destroy what has been constructed with such effort and devotion. Man does not have to be the passive victim of events which are beyond his understanding and control. One of the positive contributions of development is that it permits him to take measures conducive to achieving security and well being. Therefore, the Modern State, as the representative of collective responsibility, has an obligation to adopt all institutional and legislative measures leading to that end.

Besides adopting institutional and legislative measures, it is crucial to set up co-ordination and follow up machinery in all spheres of activity, inasmuch as the voluntary and supportive participation of the population in emergency situations may be channelled into more permanent activities in the field of organization and preparedness, as well as of training in the use of salvage, rescue and reconstruction techniques as well as in the compilation and dissemination of information.

Voluntary work and solidarity as inseparable components of social activity in disaster situations are very useful if properly organized. It is therefore important to keep them active by appropriate follow-up and promotion, in order to be able to draw on their capacity to the maximum in times of emergency and to channel their social action towards other spheres of activity in normal times.

The annotated commentaries constitute a substantial part of what I understand to be the purposes of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and my commitment and activities were deverted along those lines during the long months of negotiation prior to its adoption by the General Assembly.

Further, it is with this perspective and approach to economic and social development that the activities of the United Nations Department for Humanitarian Affairs acquire their true dimension by offering hope for all those victims of disasters. The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs should therefore consider all the mechanisms and resources available to it in order to promote criteria for preventing, preparing for and lessening the impact of disasters as part of the concept of economic and social development, alerting Governments to the extent of their responsibility and the possibilities of influencing social development by institutional changes that promote disaster preparedness and management. ■

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*Marta Dueñas, a Career Diplomat with 28 years of experience with the Foreign Office of Ecuador, has held, among other positions, that of Director-General for Economic and Technical Co-operation in Quito.*

# Mitigation Activities in Disaster-Prone Regions: Asia and the Pacific

## *Vulnerability of Pacific Societies*

Pacific Societies have undergone rapid social and cultural change over the past one hundred years. Although the majority of the population remains at the subsistence level in the traditional sector, the modern sector is making rapid progress. Societies are increasingly exposed to western life-styles to which most people aspire. The change from traditional to modern life-styles expose people to greater hazards while eroding their ability to cope with disasters. The vulnerability of Pacific Societies must be considered within the context of this change and the present and prospective level of socio-economic development.

With the decline of the extended family system, the group of people that are particularly at risk are the single parent families, women, the handicapped, children and the elderly. This group is becoming more vulnerable and increasing in number, particularly at the urban areas where the family links have been weakened. Extreme poverty is uncommon in the Pacific, especially in rural areas where strong traditional support mechanisms still exist. In the event of a disaster, this support mechanism usually responds with those unaffected helping those being struck. However, in the urban areas, poverty and vulnerability are becoming more prevalent.

In the Pacific the sources of livelihood are very limited, leaving a large number of people at risk in the event of a disaster. Since most of the people obtain their livelihood from subsistence activities, and most of the countries economies rely on agriculture, the Pacific Societies are particularly vulnerable. Entire food and income sources can be wiped out or damaged and recovery delayed because of the long maturation of crops. Commercial agriculture as practised today, with its lack of diversity, dependence on a few cash crops, and often environmentally unsound farming systems risks people's livelihood should disaster strike. Tourism is another important source of income and livelihood in the Pacific. Tourism areas are often sited in the most vulnerable locations and loss of earnings are frequently experienced following natural disasters. ■

## DHA South Pacific Programme Office

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs/South Pacific Programme Office (DHA/SPPO) established in 1990, is contributing to the strengthening and improvement of disaster management at the national and regional levels. As an integral part of the United Nations system, it provides support to UN agencies and donor countries to ensure quick and effective response when disasters occur. An important mandate for DHA/SPPO during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000), is to vigorously promote and increase the level of disaster mitigation and preparedness activities for Pacific islands countries.

DHA/SPPO will provide ongoing support for governments in the region in an array of disaster management elements directly related to miti-

gation, preparedness and response. Since DHA/SPPO is not a funding agency, all project activities it initiates require external funding, either from bilateral or multilateral sources. It therefore works closely with the traditional donors within the Pacific region: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, USA, Britain, Canada, France, the Netherlands and the EC.

The main objectives of the Office, are:

To contribute to the improvement and strengthening of disaster management for vulnerable countries in the South Pacific, to minimize the impact of natural disasters, and to provide necessary support to UN agencies and bilateral donors for the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to disaster victims.

### SPPO's main functions are:

### Disaster Relief

■ Assist Pacific islands countries in their post-disaster damage and needs assessment and in other disaster relief activities. Provide regular disaster situation and information reports, damage and needs (relief, rehabilitation and recovery) assessments to DHA in Geneva and New York, to the members of the UN Disaster Management Team and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

### Information Dissemination

■ As requested by recipient and donor countries in the region, DHA/SPPO functions as the focal point for disaster information in the Pacific. Its role is to establish an information data base for the region, encouraging and ensuring the availability and accessibility to disaster information.

■ Disseminate information through newsletters and publications, meetings and seminars, and the establishment of small national disaster libraries.

### Project initiation

■ DHA/SPPO initiates disaster mitigation, preparedness and response projects, at regional and national levels in order to improve and strengthen the capability of countries to manage the causes, and to minimize the effects, of natural disasters. It identifies, formulates, and prepares projects when requested by Pacific islands governments.

■ Assist governments in negotiating funds from potential donors for formulated projects.

■ Provide management, through monitoring, evaluation or specific technical inputs, for bilaterally or multilaterally funded projects.

*Source:*

*SPPO Publication. South Pacific Programme Office, Seminar Report - Strengthening Disaster Management in the South Pacific.* ■

## South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme

Financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the Programme is the work of a consultant and the staff of DHA's South Pacific Programme Office (SPPO).

Among the key issues, the Programme will address, over a period of four years, the strengthening of institutional capacities and the development of human resources in a number of Pacific Islands.

To achieve this objective the Programme will provide a roving trainer who, during a period of 2 years, will carry out training in disaster management to groups of countries. A series of manuals on topics ranging from disaster preparedness to response and awareness will be produced with the help of national officials.

Exchange of experience in disaster management is another facet of the Programme. Annual regional meetings are envisaged for disaster officials as well as for donors and national and international agencies.

In consultation with governments, agencies and donors an appropriate regional institution is expected to be identified at the end of the Programme which will play the key role in disaster management in the region.

The programme has been reviewed in Suva (Fiji) by donors and United Nations agencies. It is currently under study for funding by UNDP - New York and donors such as the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. DHA's SPPO will be the implementing partner for UNDP. ■

# WHO: Preparing for Disasters in Asia and the Pacific

## Emergency Health Managers of 20 Countries in the Asia-Pacific Area Call for Regional Co-operation on Emergency Preparedness

Regional co-operation on emergency management for the health sector has taken a step forward. For the first time ever, emergency health managers of countries in the Asia-Pacific area identified common challenges they face and outlined solutions to deal with these challenges.

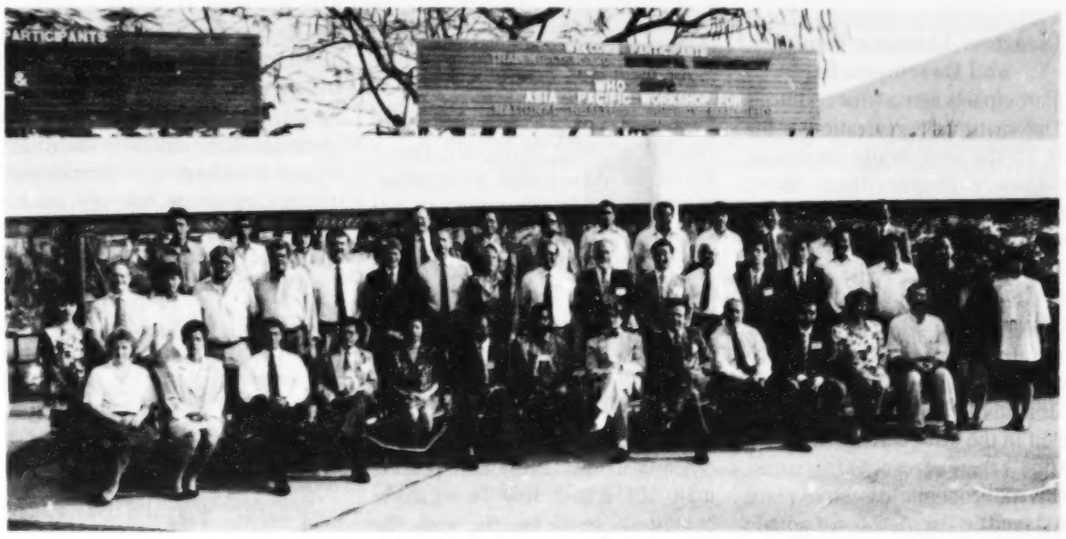
Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), the National Emergency Health Managers Workshop took place from 20 to 26 February 1993 in Bangkok at the Asian Institute for Technology (AIT).

The workshop was the first such meeting for health managers in the region to exchange emergency management experiences, assess the current status of health sector preparedness and response capabilities at an interregional level, and develop a consensus for future action on emergency health issues in Asia and the Pacific.

Participants from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region were joined by leading emergency management specialists from universities and scientific institutions around the world, as well as WHO emergency preparedness and response experts based in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

### Emergency Health Management: Complex, Interdisciplinary

Why sponsor a regional meeting on emergency preparedness for the health sector in Asia and the Pacific? In short, because there may be no area in the world so challenged by the menace of disasters. Yet despite the obvious importance of the health sector in disaster management, no mechanisms or institutions are in place that help countries deal with the health aspects of disasters.



WHO Photo

At the international level, various sectors have started to interact on emergency management issues, noted many participants at the workshop. Yet outside the health sector, no one knows how complex the management of health issues in emergencies can be. Disaster medicine, epidemiology, environmental health, nutrition... specialists from each of these disciplines are developing their own ways to deal with emergencies. Participants believed they must work together to co-ordinate these approaches.

### A Broad Range of Concerns

Discussions reflected the broad range of concerns of emergency health managers in the region. Among the technical topics explored were disaster epidemiology, the medical chain of care, hospital management, nutrition, environmental health, medical supply management, health issues for displaced groups and health aspects of technological disasters. Management issues were examined in sessions on logistical management, health sector planning, multisectoral planning and co-ordination with international organizations.

### Disasters Threaten Health and Development

Participants agreed that countries and international organizations in the Asia-Pacific area should emphasize emergency preparedness more strongly. They expressed great interest in strengthening regional links to deal specifically with the many health issues related to emergencies.

Their concerns seem well justified. For one, the frequency of natural disasters has nearly quadrupled in the last 30 years. In 1991, the lion's share of recorded disasters, deaths and economic losses took place in Asia and the Pacific. Most dramatic is the loss of lives: of the 162,000 people around the world killed by natural disasters, over 159,000 were killed in the Asia-Pacific area. The Bangladesh cyclone alone killed 140,000 people, and summer floods in China killed nearly 3,100 people and caused US $15 billion in economic losses.

Chemical accidents are also a concern. "The region possesses an envious record as an area with a very rapidly growing economic base," noted an Asia-based participant. "Economic development is accompanied by a greater risk of man-made technological hazards and a growing threat for environmental degradation and destruction."

In Asia, high population density, rapid industrial growth, and the continued expansion of megacities mean that each disaster has the potential to affect millions of people, many of whom live in unstable conditions. In the Pacific, while the population density may be lower, natural disasters sweep upon whole islands at once, affecting the entire population.

Participants pointed out that the health and development implications of these trends are clear: disasters can quickly erase years of development efforts, and the short and long-term public health consequences can be grave indeed.

### Asia and the Pacific Natural Disasters in 1991

**More than any other area in the world, the Asia-Pacific suffers from the effects of natural disasters, as shown in these 1991 figures.**

- **Worldwide, disasters caused economic losses totalled US $44 billion; $31 billion was in the Asia-Pacific.**
- **Worldwide, disasters killed 162,000 people; 159,000 were in the Asia-Pacific.**
- **Worldwide, there were 434 recorded disaster; 178 were in the Asia-Pacific.**

*Adapted from: Munich Reinsurance for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 1992.*

### Building Regional Capacities to Cope with Disasters

Dealing with emergencies and their aftermath is no easy task, and the burden falls largely on those struck by disasters. Countries manage the initial response on their own, as it takes a few days before international assistance begins to arrive. They continue to deal with the health and socio-economic effects long after international assistance has dwindled. In fact, international aid for disasters seldom exceeds an estimated 4 per cent of losses.*

What did participants think these realities meant for them and for the region? On the one hand, they felt it was essential to build their own national capacities to deal with disasters. On the other hand, they sought a forum to exchange information outside of their own countries. They wished to share their experiences, to seek advice on new trends, ideas and technology, and tap into the growing number of emergency health specialists in Asia, the Pacific and other areas of the world.

They also reflected on how preparedness plans for the health sector could best be implemented, and why the best-laid plans some-

*Economic Impact of Disasters, UNDRO News, Jan./Feb. 1988.

times went awry. "We came to the conclusion that political commitment is crucial and that legislation is a must," noted a rapporteur of one of the working groups.

An emergency health planner at the meeting added: "Emergency plans should be incorporated into the normal routines practiced by people on a regular basis. The planning should not be done in isolation, but should be the product of multi-agency co-operation. Also, disaster plans must be "living documents" - there must be disaster training and continuous updating of the plan."

For the health counter-disaster plan to be effective, training programmes should not exist in a vacuum, noted the group. The training process could start within hospitals and selected institutions at national, state and district levels. Specific packages should be developed for other groups (police, army, public health engineers, students, etc.), which play a role in disaster management. The goal is to communicate based on common emergency management concepts, despite widely different technical backgrounds.

To save resources, training should be "institutionalized" -- that is, incorporated into medical, nursing, engineering and other existing curricula of schools and universities. Ministries of Health should incorporate disaster management in existing training programmes on primary health care.

## The Bangkok Declaration: A Call for National Regional and International Action

The participants subsequently adopted "The Bangkok Declaration

**Extracts from:**

### The Bangkok Declaration on Emergency Preparedness for the Health Sector in the Asia-Pacific Region

- *PARTICIPANTS DECLARED THEY WOULD*
  - intensify efforts to strengthen national capabilities to prevent and mitigate disasters;
  - commit themselves to provide training opportunities for national and subnational emergency health officers for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response;
  - work to increase co-operation between the health sector and other sectors involved in emergency management, including civil defence, other emergency-related government departments, non-governmental organizations and private voluntary organizations.

- *COUNTRIES WERE URGED TO*
  - build efficient emergency preparedness programmes, institutionalize them and incorporate them in national socio-economic development plans, drawing upon the vast amount of emergency management experience around the world, as well as upon existing UN resolutions on emergency management;
  - identify a full-time co-ordinating entity within the health sector that ensures: a) maximum utilization of the many different health-related disciplines, expertise and subsectors needed during emergencies, as well as b) full collaboration with the national co-ordinating agency for emergencies;
  - provide the above-mentioned entity with the necessary technical and financial support from regular sources, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of emergency preparedness activities;

- *INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND BILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE ASKED TO*
  - co-ordinate their efforts in assisting countries of the Asia Pacific region to build their emergency preparedness and response capabilities;
  - allocate more resources to emergency prevention, preparedness and mitigation programmes at national and subnational levels;
  - increase participation of the health sector in the IDNDR, and ensure that health issues are given due consideration in the IDNDR agenda and events, including the upcoming 1994 IDNDR World Conference;
  - encourage the transfer of technologies and know-how related to emergency prevention, mitigation and preparedness for countries vulnerable to disasters in the Asia and pacific region;

- *WHO WAS REQUESTED TO*
  - increase technical and financial support for emergency preparedness and response to member countries, both through regular country budgets and extra-budgetary resources;
  - identify full time focal points within the regional offices and encourage regions to develop inter-country and inter-regional training programmes, as well as databases;
  - establish a centre of excellence within the Asia and the Pacific regions, along the lines of the WHO Panafrican Emergency Preparedness and Response Centre in Africa (health sector) of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Asia (multisectoral), working in close collaboration with the latter;
  - further develop new strategies dealing with large population movements, and provide opportunities to implement related programmes in the Asia Pacific region.

*WHO-ADPC/AIT Workshop for National Health Emergency Managers Bangkok, 22-26 February 1993.*

on Emergency Preparedness for the Health Sector in the Asia-Pacific Region". The Declaration provides a blueprint for future action in the region on emergency health issue.

They specifically requested that WHO establish a centre of excellence in the Asia-Pacific area, working closely with ADPC, to address health sector needs for emergencies. (WHO is currently analyzing the feasibility of establishing such a centre).

Perhaps AIT's President Alistair North best summed up the workshop's goals:

"We must manage interdisciplinary connections. Specialists often work in watertight boxes and do not communicate with each other." He added, "People must recognize that they are dependent on people from other countries... In health, epidemics, disease, typhoons and cyclones do not recognize boundaries".

*(Proceedings will be published in 1993 by WHO. Contact: WHO, Division of Emergency Relief Operations, Emergency Preparedness and Planning Programme, 20, avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland).*

The above article was provided by the WHO Emergency Preparedness and Planning Programme. ■

# Disaster Management Training Programme

## DMTP Country Workshops

Recent workshops have included Ecuador, Ethiopia, Lebanon and the Sudan. All involved review of disaster management principles and agreed strategic plans for active follow up by the participants who included senior officials from the government, the UN system and the NGO community. The donor community also participated in certain instances. In the case of Ethiopia, Lebanon and Sudan complex emergencies were a significant area of focus.

Upcoming country workshops include China, India, Nepal and the Philippines. A regional workshop in French is also scheduled for West Africa.

## Special Events

In late March a special workshop was held in Villars, Switzerland, under the auspices of DMTP, and brought together senior staff from DHA and UNDP. These included 19 Resident Co-ordinators from different parts of the world. The workshop reviewed a series of emergency co-ordination issues, in particular as seen from the field perspective. Modern training approaches were used, including large and small-group problem identification and solving and produced a number of recommendations for follow-up by UNDP and DHA. UNDP participants also met on their own for a full day to review their own policies and guidelines in the emergency field.

In early April a half-day meeting was held in Geneva with Geneva-based members of the DMTP UN Cadre of trainers. The meeting served primarily as an opportunity for trainers to compare their experience in preparing for and running sessions in country workshops.

Agreement was reached with the ILO Turin Centre that DMTP would lend assistance with the design and delivery of disaster and emergency-related components of their October 93 courses for UN field teams.

A full one-week DMTP co-ordination session was held in April bringing together its core management i.e. DHA, UNDP, OPS and the DMTP technical support staff from the University of Wisconsin. The meetings were structured in accordance with DMTP's new Management Matrix which describes and defines responsibility for 36 distinct management functions within DMTP. A significant dimension of the co-ordination meetings concerned the follow up to the Mid-Term Review of DMTP which had been carried out in late 92.

## Training Materials

During the period under review a number of DMTP training modules were translated into Arabic (7) and Farsi (4). These included the Overview module as well as the modules on Assessment, Displaced Persons in Conflict Situation, and Disaster and Development. ■

# GEORGIA

## The United Nations Call for Humanitarian Aid

*by Fabrizio Gentiloni, DHA Relief Co-ordination Officer*

Poets, artists and writers have long celebrated the beauty of Georgia, a land with fertile valleys and restful sandy beaches along the Black Sea. The country is potentially rich, as proved by the very good agricultural soil and the variety of natural resources. For centuries, Georgian ancient towns have been peaceful thoroughfares of many civilizations and nationalities in the Caucasus. Like in the former Yugoslavia, different ethnic groups (Armenians, Russians, Ossetians, Abkhaz, Azeris, Georgians, Greeks and others) live together in the same villages.

Today, hundreds of thousands of people undergo the painful effects of civil strife and a deep economic crisis. Many persons of various ethnic origins have been displaced by the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In certain towns, the population has swollen as a result of the influx of people searching for a safe heaven; other urban centres have been emptied by the inhabitants fleeing the hostilities. While the full story of human suffering linked with the conflicts is yet to be told, it is clear that the most vulnerable are the sick, the elderly, and children.

At the request of the Georgian Government, a DHA-led inter-agency mission, comprising UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, FAO, WHO, IOM and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, visited Georgia from 30 January to 16 February 1993. The main objective was to assess urgent humanitarian needs.

**... Sukhumi, capital of Abkhazia, formerly a lavish resort of 100,000 inhabitants among fruit orchards and lush woodlands, now a ghostly frontier town ...**

From the point of view of those who, like me, participated in the mission, it was an eventful trip, among people of admirable hospitality. It took time, efforts, and all the negotiating skills of Mr. Fedor Starcevic, Head of the United Nations Interim Office in Georgia, to arrange our crossing of the two 'borders' with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In Sukhumi, capital of Abkhazia, formerly a lavish resort of 100,000 inhabitants among fruit orchards

DHA/F. Gentiloni Photos

*The full story of human suffering linked with the conflicts is yet to be told ...*

and lush woodlands, now a ghostly frontier town, it was not reassuring for us to make an assessment amidst intermittent fire springing from nowhere. From the very outset of the mission, the dimensions of the human tragedy were visible: 'refugees' (actually internally displaced persons and returnees) were cramming all available hotels in Tbilisi with their inadequate belongings; bullet-riddled homes were the shaky residences of poor inhabitants of Tskhinvali, capital of South Ossetia; crowds of elderly and sick people were gathered around our Russian helicopter in Tkvarceli, Abkhazia, trying to get away from the military siege and its legacy of diseases and hunger.

Having to work under freezing temperatures inside, we could realize the hardship caused to hundreds of thousands of people by the lack of heating for a whole winter. Everywhere, even away from conflict areas, one could witness long queues for bread and milk, and basic medical supplies.

**Everywhere, even away from conflict areas, one could witness long queues for bread and milk, ...**

Following the inter-agency mission, Mr. Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, issued on 1 March 1993, the "United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for the Most Vulnerable Among the Conflict-Affected Population in Georgia". The appeal focused on the priority needs of 108,000 persons most critically affected, consisting of displaced persons, returnees, women, children, the sick and the elderly, through the end of 1993. The total value of the emergency assistance required amounts to US$20,927,000, in the following sectors: food aid, logistics, health care, nutrition, social welfare services, relief and survival items (such as blankets, stoves, winter clothing and tools) and international protection. In addition, credit and food aid allocations are requested to make up the shortfall of 400,000 tons in food grain requirements for 1993.

The appeal makes it clear that, unless Georgia receives substantial international assistance, the internal systems that currently provide for the vulnerable groups will break down and the numbers requiring foreign aid will increase. The Governments of Italy, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, which responded quickly to the appeal, proved to be aware of this fact. In addition, the Department

of Humanitarian Affairs advanced funds for the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. Thanks to these contributions, it has been possible to respond to a humanitarian crisis of increasing proportions. It has also been possible to organize airlifts of basic relief supplies, such as blankets, tools and basic construction equipment. The first DHA airlift landed in Tbilisi on the night between 24 and 25 March 1993. Within a few days, half of the cargo was delivered to South Ossetia and neighbouring areas under the U.N. supervision, while the balance was destined for the needs in Tbilisi and surrounding regions. Other airlifts are under preparation by UNICEF, DHA, UNHCR and other agencies.

Unfortunately, a major funding shortfall of US $19.6 million at the time of writing, still prevents full programme implementation. It prevents, for instance (among other reasons), the continuation under United Nations leadership of the food airlift to Tkvarceli. It prevents distribution of basic food parcels to needy displaced persons and the upgrading of facilities at Batumi and Poti ports, so vital for the humanitarian supply not only of Georgia, but also of the other Republics in the Caucasus. It prevents a regular provision of medical supplies to people increasingly exposed to health hazards and the ensuring of international protection to thousands of persons whose civil rights are constantly under threat. For all those who saw the emaciated looks of the victims of these conflicts it is a saddening realization. All the more so, as tensions are sharpening, and the crisis could widen dangerously.

Yet, there is ground for hope. On one hand, donors can - and should - make further pledges. On the other, unlike former Yugoslavia'bridges'and informal contacts between various ethnic communities are not severed in spite of the fighting. But this hope relies on the strength and courage of the Georgian people, who, despite all the shortages, share these days their meager resources with the 'refugees' with a spontaneous generosity which could be a model for many richer countries. As Mr. Shevardnadze proudly said to the members of the inter-agency mission: "In a few years, I am convinced that, with the help of the United Nations and of the international community we will be able to come out of this predicament, Georgia will then be no longer a recipient of foreign aid, but will join the community of nations in providing help to other countries". To assist in making the prediction of Mr. Shevardnadze become a reality, as it is most likely the wish of the majority of Georgian citizens is the task impending on all of us who play a role, no matter how small, in humanitarian aid. ■

# RWANDA

**Les dernières hostilités ayant éclaté au Rwanda (février) ont eu pour résultat de porter à 900 000 le nombre des personnes déplacées à l'intérieur du pays. L'ampleur et la complexité de la situation exigent une aide d'urgence d'un volume considérablement accru dans tous les secteurs et un mécanisme efficace de coordination. Un cessez-le-feu est actuellement en vigueur et il faut espérer qu'il sera suivi d'un accord de paix. En tout état de cause, l'aide de la collectivité internationale sera nécessaire au moins jusqu'à la fin de l'année 1993.**

Les combats entre les forces armées rwandaises et le Front patriotique rwandais (FPR) ont éclaté pour la première fois en octobre 1990 et se sont poursuivis avec de brèves interruptions, état de choses qui a amené 900 000 personnes, soit 13% environ de la population rwandaise, à se déplacer de la partie septentrionale du pays vers les zones situées immédiatement au sud de la zone du conflit. Sur ces 900 000 personnes, le tiers environ avaient été déplacées avant que les combats ne reprennent en février 1993.

La situation se trouve exacerbée par l'état économique déjà précaire du Rwanda, par une forte densité de population et par une production agricole en voie de déclin rapide. La plupart des personnes déplacées vivent dans 30 camps ou à proximité, des zones où les conditions sont misérables : la malnutrition avancée et la maladie sont devenues une réalité affligeante. La collectivité internationale a fourni des secours sous forme de denrées alimentaires, de médicaments, d'eau et d'articles indispensables autres qu'alimentaires, mais le simple poids des besoins nouveaux est désormais écrasant.

Comme suite à la demande que le Président du Rwanda avait adressée au Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, une mission de bons offices s'est rendue au Rwanda au début de mars pour aider

**Le Rwanda connaîtra un grave déficit alimentaire cette année du fait que c'est dans la zone septentrionale du conflit que se trouvent les terres les plus fertiles du pays et du fait aussi que l'acheminement de vivres de cette région vers le reste du pays s'est trouvé coupé. La production locale de vivres est actuellement tout à fait insuffisante pour répondre aux besoins des personnes déplacées. L'achat sur le marchés locaux de céréales et de légumineuses a fortement gonflé les prix. Pour approvisionner les camps, il faut acheter des vivres en dehors du Rwanda, dans la sous-région, principalement en Ouganda, mais, on constate que les vivres en provenance de l'Ouganda vont prochainement se révéler insuffisants, ce qui obligera à se procurer des vivres additionnels en dehors de la sous-région.**

**Camps pour personnes déplacées. (Mission DAH au Rwanda, mars 1993).**

DHA/L. Bjorkman Photos

à favoriser le processus de paix. Un accord de cessez-le-feu a été signé le 7 mars 1993 et devrait être suivi d'un accord de paix. Depuis le cessez-le-feu, le Conseil de Sécurité a, le 12 mars, adopté sa résolution 812 par laquelle il invite le gouvernement rwandais et le FPR à assurer la sécurité et le droit de passage voulus aux agents dispensant les secours, aux fournitures de secours et aux personnes déplacées rentrant dans leurs régions d'origine.

Une mission interinstitutions dirigée par le Département des affaires humanitaires s'est rendue sur place entre le 18 et le 25 mars pour aider à élaborer un appel commun d'aide urgente en faveur des personnes déplacées. A l'issue d'entretiens approfondis avec le Gouvernement rwandais, le CICR, les ONG et les représentants des organismes des Nations Unies au Rwanda, les conclusions de la mission ont été examinées à Genève par un groupe de travail interinstitutions, les 26 et 27 mars. Cet examen a abouti au document intitulé "Appel interinstitutions commun des Nations Unies en faveur du Rwanda", qui met l'accent sur l'établissement de priorités.

L'appel, dont le montant total s'élève à 78 517 679 dollars des Etats-Unis, expose les projets prioritaires de secours d'urgence qui doivent être exécutés séparément ou conjointement par le PAM, l'UNICEF, l'OMS, la FAO, le PNUD et le Département des affaires humanitaires, en étroite collaboration avec le Gouvernement rwandais, le CICR, les ONG et des organismes bilatéraux.

La durée d'exécution du programme de secours d'urgence et de relèvement exposé dans l'appel s'étend sur 9 mois, d'avril à décembre 1993. Une raison importante de la durée d'exécution de ce programme tient à ce que même si les personnes déplacées ont rentrer chez elles pour la saison des semailles en juillet, ce n'est qu'en décembre seulement que débuteront les moissons capables d'offrir une certaine mesure d'autosuffisance.

Une réunion sous forme de table ronde qui aurait pour objet d'étudier les besoins du relèvement et de la reconstruction est provisoirement prévue pour la fin du mois de mai et le début du mois de juin 1993. Les travaux préparatoires débuteront dès que les parties intéressées estimeront que les conditions nécessaires se trouvent remplies pour que l'on puisse procéder à une évaluation concernant les anciennes zones de conflit. ■

# DHA at WORK

## An Overview of the Department's Activities during the First Quarter of 1993 (Geneva/New York)

### Relief: Mobilization and Co-ordination

■ **Afghanistan - Avalanches:** The Hindu Kush mountains were struck by avalanches on 21 March. The main road between Kabul and the North of the country was cut off. An Information Report was issued.

■ **Bangladesh - Thunderstorms:** On 7 and 8 January, heavy rains, thunderstorms and hailstorms struck northern Bangladesh. 31 people were killed, 10,000 houses damaged and 750,000 people affected. DHA issued 1 Information Report.

■ **Colombia - Floods:** On 26 April, Taparto river in the municipality of Andes, northwest Colombia, burst its banks, causing flash floods which swept away people, peasant houses and crops and triggered landslides. On 26 April preliminary reports indicated that 23 people were killed, 33 injured and 40 missing. Other parts of Colombia also suffered from unusually heavy rains during the month of April. These rains caused localized floods in the provinces of Amazonas, Meta, Tolima, Boyaca and Narino.

■ **Cuba - Tropical Storm/Floods:** In mid-March, one of the most violent tropical storms in recent history with winds up to 160 km/h and waves up to 8 m high struck Cuba causing severe flooding. Five persons were killed, 100 injured and 150,000 were directly affected. 1,500 houses were totally destroyed and 37,000 partially destroyed. Staple food and cash crops were devastated. On 17 March, DHA launched an appeal for international assistance. The UN Disaster Management Team in Havana collaborated actively with the national authorities. DHA made an emergency grant of US $25,000 for the purchase of material to repair damaged houses. DHA arranged for the showing in Geneva of a video film demonstrating the impact of the disaster. An illustrated information booklet prepared by the Office of the UN Resident Co-ordinator in Cuba was dis-tributed to the donor community. By 27 April, contributions in cash and kind worth US $4,867,505 had been reported to DHA. Five Situation Reports were issued.

■ **Ecuador - Rains/Landslides:** Following heavy rains by the end of March, severe landslides occurred in the south of Ecuador, near the city of Cuenca and Paute river. Rains and landslides suddenly created a mud/stone 'dam' blocking the river which, if it was to collapse, could cause major damage to the cities of Cuenca and El Descanso. The Government declared a state of emergency and asked for international assistance. DHA provided an emergency grant of US $25,000, and dispatched a civil engineer and relief expert seconded by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit to provide technical advice and to assist in relief co-ordination. Massive evacuation of the people in danger was undertaken and food, clothing and shelter for the homeless and evacuees had to be provided.

■ **Eritrea - Hailstorm:** The Port city of Massawa and its neighbouring villages were damaged by a hailstorm on 15 April. Entire residential quarters were flattened, and food aid stocked in warehouses for distribution to repatriating refugees was wasted. In addition mature crop fields ready for harvest were completely devastated. 15,659 people were made homeless. The provisional government (at the time of writing) made an urgent appeal for international assistance. DHA airlifted, from its Pisa warehouse, 27 tons of relief supplies donated by the Italian Government. As of 27 April 3 Situation reports were issued.

■ **Fiji - Tropical Cyclones:**

❑ **'Kina'** struck Fiji on 2 January with devastating wind gusts reaching 120 knots. The floods which resulted from the cyclone were the island's worst since the beginning of this century. 21 people were killed. Villages were totally submerged, numerous houses were washed away, and roads, bridges, power lines heavily damaged. The Government appealed for international assistance on 4 January. DHA made an emergency grant of US $15,000 and provided assistance for relief co-ordination on site (through its Suva based South Pacific Programme Office). 150,000 people were in immediate need of provision relief aid. DHA issued 6 Situation Reports. A total of over US $715,000 in contributions have been reported to DHA.

❑ **'Joni'** struck the western part of Fiji. No casualties were reported. 500 persons were made homeless and found

refuge in evacuation centers. DHA issued 1 Information Report.

■ **Georgia:** At the request of the Georgian Government, DHA led, from 30 January to 16 February, an inter-agency mission to Georgia (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, FAO, WHO, IOM and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), which assessed emergency relief needs resulting from civil strife in South Ossetia and Abkhazia combined with the economic crisis. Following the mission, DHA issued a UN Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal. With donor contributions, DHA dispatched a field delegate and carried over a relief flight to Tbilissi. *(see article page 15).*

❑ **Emergency Airlift:** As a result of the Inter-Agency appeal for Georgia, a DHA delegate accompanied on 23 March 1993 the first emergency airlift of the UN to Tbilisi, Georgia, with more than 36 mt of various relief items from DHA's Pisa Warehouse. Half of this consignement was handed over to the Georgian authorites in Tbilist, while the other half went to the victims of the October 1992 earthquake. The basic survival and household items were donated by Italy, and several boxes of winter shoes and clothing were donated by Switzerland. The total value of this operation amounted to approximately US $ 170,000.

■ **Indonesia - Floods:** Following heavy monsoon rains in late January and early February, floods affected the northern coast of Java. 88 persons were reported dead, 300,000 were evacuated and approximately 100,000 acres of paddy fields were inundated. Total losses amounted to approx. US $47 million. DHA issued 2 Information Reports.

■ **Iran - Floods:** After unprecedented heavy rainfall which started in early February, 12 Iranian provinces were flooded. 407 people died, 50 cities and 7,000 villages were affected. The floods destroyed over 96,000 houses, as well as other buildings. Damages were estimated at 567 billion rials (approx. US $370 million). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a request for international assistance. Subsequently, an appeal was launched by DHA which provided an emergency cash contribution of US $40,000.

❑ **Emergency airlifts to Iran:** DHA also organized two airlifts from its Pisa warehouse (42 metric tons of tents, blankets, plastic sheeting, generators, kitchen sets and water tanks funded by Italy and Japan.) Contributions reported to DHA amounted to US $2,700,000.

■ **Mexico - Mudslides/Floods:** Heavy rains caused mudslides and the collapse of houses on slopes in the City of Tijuana on 7 and 8 January. 20 people were killed, more than 1,000 were made homeless and thousands more were left without electricity and drinkable water. DHA issued 1 Information Report.

■ **Mongolia - Snowstorms:** Severe snowstorms affected wide areas in the western part of the country, in late March/early April. The situation was aggravated when the snow melted partially and the resulting slush then froze again, forming a thick layer of "black snow". 11 persons died and 780,000 heads of livestock (yacks, goats, sheep, cows), representing about 50 per cent of the animals in the region, were lost. International contributions announced to or channelled through DHA amounted to approximately US $437,000.

■ **Montenegro - Floods:** A DHA Liaison Officer was stationed in Podgorica for an additional 2 months, to assist in the co-ordination of relief operations following the 1992 flash floods and to monitor the implementation of the emergency repairs to the dam of the toxic waste disposal site at Mojkovac. Additional bilateral assistance reported to or channelled through DHA included airlifts of food and clothes from Russia, Italy and Switzerland.

■ **Pakistan - Avalanches:** In March, a series of avalanches caused by rains struck the North and the North-West of the country. More than 50 people were reported dead. No request for international assistance was made.

■ **Philippines - Volcanic Eruptions:** On 2 February, Mt. Mayon Volcano, located 330 km southeast of Manila in Albay province, started a series of eruptions. Over 70 people were killed. Evacuation centres were set up by the local authorities, accommodating up to 60,000 people.

■ **Tanzania - Floods:** Following unusually heavy rains which poured down over the country for weeks, flash floods struck 10 villages in the northeast. 54 people were killed, 30 injured, 2,900 were made homeless and 201,513 were affected. The floods caused enormous damage to roads, bridges and schools. The Government appealed for international assistance on 10 February. DHA made an emergency grant of US $25,000 and organized, from its Pisa warehouse, an airlift of relief supplies donated by Japan.

■ **Tuvalu and Solomon Islands - Cyclone 'Nina':** On 3 January, tropical cyclone "Nina" with strong winds of up to 70 knots struck the Tuvalu Islands. High seas caused the flooding of five outer islands' main villages. Numerous families were rendered homeless but no casualties were reported. The Government requested international assistance for the provision of relief supplies. DHA made available an emergency grant of US $10,000. Cyclone "Nina" also damaged the southern and eastern parts of the Solomon Islands affecting 88,500 people and leaving thousands homeless. 3 persons were reported dead and one missing. DHA launched an appeal for immediate relief to the disaster victims. A DHA cash grant of US $15,000 was used to cover part of the transport cost for the distribution of relief supplies to the outer islands. The Government of the Netherlands channelled a cash grant of US $28,000 through DHA for relief assistance. Total contributions reported to DHA amounted to US $230,000.

■ **Vanuatu - Cyclone:** Tropical cyclone "Prema" struck Vanuatu on 30 March with winds estimated to have exceeded 100 knots, severely affecting Epi, Efate and Shepherd islands (75 to 80 per cent of all buildings and 90 to 100 per cent of

crops were destroyed). In spite of the violence of "Prema" the casualties were limited to 1 death and 10 injured thanks to preparedness measures. The Government requested international assistance on 2 April. DHA immediately made an emergency grant of US $20,000 and dispatched an expert from its Fiji based South Pacific Programme Office to provide on-site assistance for relief co-ordination and to assess relief requirements. 5 Situation Reports were issued. As of 28 April, US$480,000 in contributions were reported to DHA.

■ **Yemen - Floods:** Flash floods caused by torrential rains in ealy February struck the Governorates of Aden, Lahej and Abyan, affecting more than one million people. 31 people were killed and over 4,500 houses as well as a number of hospitals/clinics were destroyed or severely damaged. DHA launched an appeal for international assistance on 9 February. A DHA cash grant of US $25,000 together with US $340,000 provided through UNDP/DHA from Australia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States was used for the purchase of medicaments and medical equipment. Total contributions, as reported to DHA, amounted to US $1,400,000 on 24 March.

■ **Zimbabwe - Cholera Epidemic:** By mid February a total of 4,034 cholera cases and 208 deaths were reported. The Zimbabwe Government required international assistance for funding of medical supplies, health education, sanitation. DHA issued 1 Situation Report at the joint request of the Government and WHO.

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■ **Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief:** The final Report of the Workshop on the Use of MCDA in Disaster Relief, held at NATO Headquarters in Brussels on 14-15 December 1992, has been finalized and distributed to UN Members States and other relevant organizations.

As recommended in Brussels, a Standing Co-ordinating Group (SCG) on DPR 213/3 has been established in Geneva to co-ordinate and supervise the activities of the programme. Four *ad hoc* multinational working groups are elaborating the text of the guidelines, which will set criteria and conditions for the use of unarmed MCDA in non-conflict international relief operations, including natural disasters and technological accidents.

The SCG held its first meeting on 4 March 1993 and will continue to meet regularly for the finalization of the guidelines as well as the organization of an international conference on this subject in early 1994.

■ **DHA-Pisa Warehouse - Japanese Goods:** A delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited the Warehouse on 8 March for an inspection of the Japanese donated relief materials in stock and decided to donate new relief items as well as to increase the quantity of already available items. On 21 & 22 April, the new relief items, generators, electric extension cables, water purifying device kits and soap bars arrived in Pisa.

## Shipments from DHA's Pisa Warehouse

**February :**

❒ in co-operation with the Japanese Government, airlift of 5 mt of goods to Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania), via Paris, for victims of floods.

**March :**

❒ in co-operation with the Japanese and Luxembourg Governments, airlift of 30 mt of relief goods to Tehran (Iran), after extensive flooding.

❒ in co-operation with the Italian and Swiss Governments, airlift of 36 mt of relief goods to Tbilisi (Georgia) and Tskinvali (South Ossetia).

**April :**

❒ in co-operation with British Government, airlift of 36 mt of relief items to eight NGOs working around Mogadiscio (Somalia).

❒ in co-operation with the Italian Government, airlift of 16 mt to Tehran (Iran).

❒ in co-operation with the Italian Government, airlift of 30 mt of relief goods to Asmara (Eritrea), for the victims of a hailstorm in the port of Massawa.

## Disaster Mitigation and Management Planning

■ **Nepal:** The Government has identified studies on safety of its earth-filled dams (some of them are approx. 100 m high, retaining tens of million of cubic meters of water), as a subject for technical assistance from the international agencies. DHA, in co-operation with UN-DESD, has taken a lead in promoting a series of safety dam studies i.e., risk analysis and land-use zoning, mapping of the risk, vulnerability analysis, preparation of evacuation plans and plans for upgrading the resistance of the existing engineering structures, training and education. The DHA consultant undertook a mission to a dam site in Nepal in April. The project of about US $100,000, is financed by a a special contribution from the Government of Norway for technical co-operation. A number of other countries have expressed

their interest in obtaining technical assistance or specific guidance for other projects in dam safety studies.

■ **Viet-Nam:** The country frequently suffers from floods and other water related disasters, and has identified this as a subject for priority attention from international agencies. DHA, in co-operation with UNDP, has taken a lead in promoting a series of flood mitigation activities. These included an International Workshop on Flood Disaster Management, which took place in Hanoi in 1992. Based on the recommendations of the workshop, a document entitled "A Strategy and Action Plan for Management of Water Related Disasters" was prepared by a multi-disciplinary team of specialists who undertook several missions in the fields of hydrology, land-use zoning, vulnerability and risk analysis, disaster management and training. In addition, 18 priority projects for technical co-operation were identified, covering problems of water hazard mitigation and management. Several international agencies expressed their interest in the development of the suggested projects.

## General Information

### New York

■ **Cuba - Tropical Storm/Floods - Visit of the Permanent Representative of Cuba:** Mr. A. Hidalgo, the newly appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations visited Under-Secretary-General Mr. J. Eliasson on 30 March on a courtesy call.

The discussions centered on the recent tropical storm and floods (12-14 March 1993) that hit Cuba and caused extensive damage to agriculture and property. The Ambassador reported that 8 of 14 provinces were affected with an estimated damage of US $1 billion. This disaster, compounded with an already prevailing difficult economic situation, has created an unprecedented catastrophic situation in the country. He concluded by stating that the Latin American and Caribbean countries are presently working on the text of a draft resolution for further international assistance to be presented to the General Assembly in the next few days.

Mr. Eliasson expressed his sympathy to the Government and victims of the disaster and reported on the efforts of the UN system, NGO's and the international community, as contained in the Situation Reports issued by Geneva, to assist in alleviating the suffering of the affected population. He assured the Ambassador that DHA will continue to monitor the situation and alert the international community of the emergency humanitarian needs of the country.

■ **Ethiopia:** The Minister of External Economic Co-operation of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Abdulmejid, paid a visit to Mr. Eliasson on 30 April.

■ **Haiti - United Nations/Organization of American States (UN/OAS) - Consolidated Humanitarian Plan of Action:** Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world with two-thirds of its population living below poverty levels. The coup d'état of September 1991 has aggravated this situation. The OAS adopted resolutions imposing a trade embargo on Haiti and all bilateral assistance was suspended.

As humanitarian assistance was exempted from the embargo the OAS and the United Nations have attempted continuously to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people. Central to this process has been the formulation of a joint UN/OAS Comprehensive Plan for Humanitarian Action in Haiti. The plan contains emergency programme in the field of health, nutrition and food aid, water supply and sanitation, and agriculture as well as support services for those areas and limited education and other social services. The needs identified totalled US $62.7 million.

The Plan was officially launched on 26 March under cover of a letter of appeal signed by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the OAS Assistant-Secretary-General. A UN/OAS Steering Committee has been established in Haiti to co-ordinate the implementation of the Plan.

■ **Rwanda:** Following a request from the President of Rwanda, DHA led a humanitarian Inter-Agency mission to Rwanda from 18 to 25 March. Subsequently, DHA issued a consolidated appeal for an amount of US $78 million on 15 April. *(see article page 18).*

The Permanent Representative of Rwanda, H.E. Mr. Jean Damascene Bizimana held consultations with Mr. Jan Eliasson on 28 January and 29 April.

A delegation headed by the Chairman of the Rwandese Patriotic Front, Colonel Alexis Kanyarengwe, visited DHA on 22 April.

■ **DHA/IDNDR secretariat-organized Special High-Level Council's** second session was held on 25 January at the UN Headquarters. It brought together eight prominent members of the Council and was chaired by the Secretary-General. The session concluded by the adoption of a "12-point Plan of Action".

### Geneva

■ **Visit of Vice-Minister of National Land Agency, Japan:** On 22 April, a delegation of the National Land Agency of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan visited DHA-Geneva. The delegation consisted of Vice-Minister Mr. Fujiwara, Councellor to the Minister Mr. Rokuhara and Deputy Director of General Affairs Division Mr. Noda. The delegation presented the role of the Disaster Prevention Bureau in the National Land Agency which is the focal point for disaster mitigation and response in Japan as well as the

focal point in Japan for IDNDR activities. Discussions were held on international co-operation for the response to natural disasters and on the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to be held in Yokohama in 1994.

■ **JICA/DHA-Geneva/ADPC Training Course on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation:** The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), DHA and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center-AIT organized, from 31 January to 21 February in Bangkok, a new training course for technical personnel associated with disaster prevention and mitigation policy in Asian-Pacific countries. The purpose of this course is to offer participants an opportunity to upgrade relevant techniques and knowledge in the field of disaster prevention and mitigation. This year's course focused on seismic hazard mitigation. It also aimed at strengthening an Asian-Pacific network for seismic hazard prevention and mitigation.

■ **Workshop for Organizations Operating Stockpiles of Disaster Relief Items Available for International Assistance:** This workshop took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 4-5 March 1993. It was organized by DHA within the framework of its project on the Register of Stockpiles of Disaster Relief Items Available for International Assistance. Guidelines for the workshop were provided by General Assembly resolutions 46/182 and 47/168 which emphasized the need for the UN to have more expeditious access to emergency relief capacities, including food reserves and emergency stockpiles. The global objective of the workshop was to establish, through informal discussions, a practical basis for future work on and to provide a forum for substantive proposals for such arrangements. The workshop recommended as a priority item that the Register be completed with basic specifications for those stocked disaster relief items that are most frequently used in disaster relief. The Register should be made available to users as soon as it is finalized.

■ **Register of Disaster Management Expertise Update:** In December 1992 DHA sent out to 101 identified potential information providers a questionnaire to collect data on rosters of persons and teams available for delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance to be included in the Register. As of 26 April 1993, 8 United Nations agencies, 2 inter-governmental organizations, 3 international non-governmental organizations and 21 national organizations replied providing information on 24 rosters. DHA-Geneva is processing the replies from the respondents with the view to design an appropriate database structure to enter information from the completed questionnaires into the Register.

■ **Council of Europe:** DHA participated in a meeting of senior officials from European countries, responsible for the co-ordination of assistance in case of mass inflows of persons fleeing their country of origin. The meeting concentrated on assistance presently being provided to persons affected by the events in the former Yugoslavia.

■ **Swiss Disaster Relief Unit:** DHA participated in the annual meeting of the Swiss Disaster Unit (SDR) in Bern, during which several UN projects receiving operational support from SDR were presented.

■ **Telecommunications with and at Disaster sites:** DHA-Geneva is now equipped with five mobile sets of Standard C (telex and data communications) Satellite equipment. Three sets are now in use in Georgia, Lebanon and Somalia and two sets are on standby in Geneva. In support of on-site co-ordination in case of sudden disasters, two complete sets of portable and mobile VHF (voice) telecommunications equipment are ready for dispatch from Geneva.

■ **In 1991 a ten-year disaster preparedness and prevention project in the Caribbean** (Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project, PCDPPP), co-ordinated by the former UNDRO was completed. One of the main legacies of PCDPPP was its promoting the creation of a non-UN regional disaster response mechanism. This resulted in the creation of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency based in Barbados. DHA and CDERA have now established procedures for their co-operation with regard to possible relief operational input concerning sudden (non-complex) disasters in the Caribbean.

## Inter-Agency Co-operation and Special Emergency Units

■ **New Independent States (NIS):** An Inter-Agency Task Force was created to prepare a report on the requirements for humanitarian assistance for the New Independent States. The report is in a final stage and will be discussed at the next IASCBC in May.

(Preparatory work started for special conferences to be held in Geneva on the 10th and 11th June for Armenia and Azerbaijan respectively.)

■ **Drought Emergency in Southern Africa (DESA):** In April, a DHA-led inter-agency mission left for Angola to prepare an emergency humanitarian assistance appeal in response to the crisis created by the renewal of hostilities following last year's elections.

■ **Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa (SEPHA):** On 11 - 13 March there was a meeting on the Co-ordination of humanitarian assistance for the relief and rehabilitation programme. The Somalia Appeal was launched at the meeting.

Four consolidated appeals were launched on 19 February: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan. The amount of the appeals totalled US $762 million.

■ **Former Yugoslavia - Progress of the G-24 Programme:** When based in Brussels, the G-24 Monitoring Unit tracked the G-24 contributions to the former Yugoslavia. Now based in Geneva, tracking has evolved in order to create the structure to help fulfil the international community's request for an overall picture on contributions from all donors, receipts and projects of all implementing bodies and a more detailed balance of needs against supplies.

A first report to be published shortly represents the initial stage in the G-24 Programme for the former Yugoslavia. The G-24 donors have received breakdowns of their reported cumulative contributions to date, linking commitments to allocations, and a request for updated information. Countries outside of the G-24 framework have also been contacted. United Nations agencies have been approached for information on contributions received. This approach will be used for future reports.

The tables in the report not only show commitments to date, as transmitted in the past, but also the total allocated from these and that not yet allocated. Assistance from non-G-24 countries is also reported. In addition, shortfalls in agency assessed needs are illustrated in separate tables.

Work has already begun on the future stages which will involve collaboration with NGO's, ICRC, IFRC and the study of their appeals and contributions received, in order to produce the needs shortfall. Those contributions from the private sector, contributions to third countries, (e.g. Hungary), and host country assistance for the reception of refugees will be included in the next report.

## Special Unit for Iraq

During the period 1 January - 31 March 1993, sizable quantities of relief supplies (mainly food, seeds and fuel/kerosene) were transported by the United Nations from southern Turkey into northern Iraq as the implementation of the "new" Plan of Action was completed. Thus, a total of over 103,000 metric tons have been delivered to the three northern governorates by approximately 6,000 trucks under UN Guards' escort and with the active support of the DHA Convoy Co-ordination Unit in Silopi (south-east Turkey) during the winter period. This important achievement was made possible thanks to the significant level of voluntary donor contributions and the release of funds from the UN Escrow Account (totalling altogether some US $165 million for the period ending 31 March). Other humanitarian activities were implemented in the central and southern governorates of Iraq (especially in the health and water/sanitation sectors) with the collaboration of the central and local authorities.

Based on the findings and recommendations of a broad-based Needs Assessment Mission in Iraq (which took place from 5 to 16 March 1993, with active DHA participation) and inputs from UN/Donor/NGO discussions (held in Geneva on 22-23 March), a one-year UN Inter-Agency Humanitarian Co-operation Programme document was finalized and distributed to all United Nations agencies/programmes, NGOs and donor representatives concerned. This new programme succeeds the previous "new" Plan of Action (1 July 1992 - 31 March 1993) and incorporates 44 individual projects spannig 5 comprehensive sectors of relief and rehabilitation assistance: food assistance and nutrition; agricultural assistance and rehabilitation; health; community rehabilitation and infrastructure; and, programme support and co-ordination.

On the question of the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, a letter of information was sent on 29 March by the UN Co-ordinator in Baghdad to the Foreign Minister of Iraq stating that, in view of the continuation of the Programme, the principles of the existing Memorandum of Understanding would continue to govern the relationship between the two parties.

On 14 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs addressed a letter of appeal to the international donor community stressing the importance of adequate funding for the implementation of projects listed in the Co-operation Programme document: US $489.2 million are required to meet the minimum funding requirements of UN agencies and programmes (including the United Nations Guards Contingent - UNGCI) for the one-year period 1 April 1993 - 31 March 1994.

An important element for the successful implementation of the Programme will be the reinforcement of security measures for all UN and NGO staff working in Iraq (This element was tragically underscored by the assassination of another member of the NGO community in northern Iraq, Vincent Tollet of Handicap International, on 22 March.).

On 16 April, a meeting with NGO representatives was held at DHA headquarters in New York as a follow up to the February and March meetings in Geneva. On 23 April, another meeting was organized in Brussels with DHA and NGO representatives, to discuss concrete ways to strengthen UN/NGO relationship in the field, also in the context of security. In this connection, the role played by the UN Guards Contingent has been duly recognized.

However, due to the absence of new commitments, the funding situation of the Programme for this new phase is becoming critical. Carry-over funding and in-kind contributions available for most ongoing activities will be exhausted by the end of May. In a letter dated 30 April, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs has called upon the international community to urgently respond to the appeal in question, either by contributing through the UN Escrow Account in New York or directly to agencies and organizations working within the framework of the Programme, failing which the majority of activities outlined in the Co-operation Programme will not be initiated.

## Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA)

On 1st January 1993 the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA) replaced the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance programmes relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA). This change reflected the focus on humanitarian assistance activities under the aegis of DHA. The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, is also the Co-ordinator of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan.

On 21 January 1993, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Jan Eliasson, launched the "Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan", covering the period January-September 1993. It requested the international community to provide US $138.1 million for emergency assistance in the sectors of mine clearance, voluntary repatriation, food aid, health, and emergency agricultural inputs. As at 20 april 1993, some US $24 million had been pledged by donors towards the Appeal. In early December 1992 serious fighting again erupted in Kabul, obliging the UN to withdraw the small group of international staff who had returned there following the evacuation in August. Since then, 5 one-day missions to Kabul have been undertaken by international staff to monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the city.

Lack of adequate security also placed constraints on the ability of the UN to operate effectively in some other parts of the country. Following the murder of 3 UNstaff near Jalalabad on 1 February 1993, as well as a deterioration in the security situation in Kandahar, all international staff were temporarily withdrawn from both provinces. Nevertheless, the office of the United Nations agencies in Jalalabad and Kandahar remained open, manned by local staff, and ongoing assistance programmes were not suspended. International staff have remained active in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif throughout the period.

In spite of the security problem, the United Nations agencies were able to deliver substantial emergency assistance to the Afghan people during the first quarter of 1993. Some 17,000 tonnes of food were delivered to various parts of the country, including 5,000 tonnes to Kabul city. More than seven tonnes of medical equipment and drugs were provided to hospitals and health centres. Under the mine clearance programme, 2,403,174 square metres of land were surveyed and 2,319,556 square metres were cleared. Under the voluntary repatriation programme, 40,000 refugees were assisted to return home from Pakistan, and 31,000 from Iran.

On 20 April 1993, an inter-agency mission led by UNOCHA visited Kabul and started the preparation of a new operation to assist up to 200,000 displaced persons in the city and its suburbs.

## UNIENET Corner

**The United Nations International Network (UNIENET) provides the international community with access to disaster-related information. All organizations and/or individuals concerned with disaster management are encouraged to join this rapidly growing network.**

**New Bulletin Board:**

As of 8 April 1993 the Natural Hazard Research and Applications Information Center (NHRAIC) of Colorado University has its own bulletin board which includes the following information: News from the Hazards Center, latest issues of the DP Newsletter, Publications list and List of information sources. Access to NHRAIC Bulletin is provided by selecting at the Main Menu Bulletin Boards and then option NHRAIC (12). For further information please contact D. Butler by e-mail: Dialcom 141:UNX051 or UNX051@cgnet.com (Internet).

**New Users :**

We welcome the following new users: **Food for the Hungry International (FHI) - USA** (UNX023); **Notepad System International - USA** (UNX179); **Ministry of Public Works Director of Disaster Affairs - Turkey** (UNX026); **University of Colorado (NHRAIC) - USA** (UNX051); **Lohman Consultants - Netherlands** (UNX069); **Wits Business School - South Africa** (UNX054); **UN Economic Commission of Latin America (ECLAC) - Chile** (UNX079); **University of Cambridge (Institute of Public Health) - UK** (UNX095); **World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) - UK** (UNX098); **Swedish Dimco - Sweden** (UNX103).

**Various:**

Some UNIENET Bulletin Boards menus have been modified in order to reduce access cost. The UNIENET System Description, cost and subscription forms and other related information will be on-line, soon.

**Reminder:**

DHA Situation Reports: Can be delivered via e-mail to Dialcom, Internet or Bitnet addresses. Should you wish to make a request please contact us by e-mail: Dialcom 141:DHAGVA or DHAGVA@cgnet.com. Automatic e-mail deletion option: As of 7 April 1993, outstanding e-mail messages (either read or unread) are now automatically deleted from UNIENET mailboxes, in accordance with on-line procedures.

*Should you need more information on UNIENET, please do not hesitate to contact our Network System Manager Dialcom 141:UNX002 Internet UNX002@cgnet.com*

# Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) and the Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center (HRRC) at Texas A&M University have entered into a collaborating relationship. As a "DHA Collaborating Centre" the HRRC will cooperate with DHA in undertaking a variety of research and informational activities that should be beneficial to the international community's efforts to mitigate, respond to, and recover from a variety of crises, including war and strife, and both long-term and short-term natural and technological disasters.

The HRRC was established within the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University in 1988. It has grown to become perhaps the largest, multidisciplinary university-based research center studying disasters and hazards in the world. Its forty person staff includes civil engineers, architects, landscape architects, urban and regional planners, sociologists, environmental psychologists, policy analysts, wind engineers, geographers, epidemiologists, and emergency preparedness experts. In addition to being multidisciplinary, the staff is international, representing such nations as Argentina, the Bahamas, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Korea, Taiwan, as well as the United States. The HRRC has an extensive library and research collection, computer system, and resources to undertake a wide variety of projects.

The HRRC utilizes these diverse experts and resources in undertaking four major types of activities. *First*, the primary purpose of the HRRC is to undertake basic research into hazard and disaster mitigation, preparedness and response planning, and recovery. Major recent projects include studies of the feasibility of vertical sheltering for hurricane evacuees, the use of land use planning in hazard mitigation, the mitigation of tornado effects through human ecology, occupant safety in collapsed structures, search and rescue activities, and the epidemiology of death and injury, recovery and reconstruction after Hurricanes Gilbert and Hugo, linking disaster recovery to mitigation and development, public risk perception and acceptance, impacts of global climate change on forests, emergency planning and response for chemical and hazardous materials incidents, and seismic and wind engineering. A significant portion of this research has been funded by the National Science Foundation within the United States, as well as other groups, such as the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Second*, the HRRC undertakes a programme of applied research. For example, the HRRC's Applied Research Division undertakes all of the hurricane evacuation and response planning for the State of Texas. Other applied research projects have focused upon such topics as emergency fuel allocation, search and rescue in manufactured housing, quality affordable housing in disaster recovery, the effectiveness of building codes in the prevention of wind damage, and fire detection systems.

In undertaking both basic and applied research, the HRRC utilizes a variety of research methodologies, including "quick-response" research. Teams of trained researchers are on a "standby status" that will allow them to travel with as little as four hours notice to various disaster sites. Research has been undertaken at over 50 different domestic and foreign sites over the past three years.

*Third*, the HRRC has an active programme of technology transfer. On the other hand, the HRRC has a publication list of books, research reports, and articles that are available to the public at nominal cost. The list includes over 150 items and is available from the HRRC. On the other hand, the HRRC's Extension Division has presented a series of training workshops and produced training materials on hazard and

J.S. Tyndale-Biscoe Photo

*Hurricane damage in Jamaica after hurricane Gilbert in 1988.*

disaster management in co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service. In addition, staff members of the HRRC have undertaken co-operative training programmes with the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

*Fourth*, the HRRC is committed to producing future generations of hazard and disaster scholars. Its projects utilize the talents of many graduate research assistants. These young researchers receive extensive training in hazard research and management. Many of these research assistants are from non-western nations, and this training should prove to be valuable in their home lands.

In its collaborating relationship with DHA the HRRC has completed one major research project. With the financial assistance and co-operation of the Pan Caribbean Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Project (PCDPPP), researchers from the HRRC investigated the emergency preparedness, response and recovery of nations in the Eastern Caribbean that were significantly impacted by Hurricane Hugo. A series of three publications examined the experiences of Antigua, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis. The impact of the PCDPPP's efforts were studied and suggestions were offered for future planning. A significant portion of the study focused upon identifying those elements of the recovery process that were most compatible with the goals of sustainable development.

The DHA and HRRC officials recently held a series of discussions in Geneva. A variety of research and informational projects were discussed, ranging from research into effectiveness of national disaster mitigation and recovery planning, to the integration of library and data base holdings, to the participation of the HRRC in various DHA efforts. Among the latter issues, the possibility that the HRRC would produce a monthly column for DHA News was discussed.

This column represents the introductory effort toward this end. In future columns from the HRRC, the attempt will be made to provide information on ongoing research projects and to present research findings in topical areas that may be relevant to those readers involved with hazard mitigation and management. While some columns will focus upon research being undertaken by the HRRC at Texas A&M University, the topics and discussions will be much broader.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the HRRC Publication List, or simply receive more information about the Center, please contact:

The Publications Clerk, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3137, USA.

If you have comments about this or future columns, please contact either Dr. Dennis Wenger, Director or Dr. Philip Berke, Associate Director, at the same address.

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# Conferences & Courses

### Planning and Management Skills for Reconstruction after War
### Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies - University of York
### 5 - 16 July 1993, York, United Kingdom

The course is designed for Government officials, emergency planners, architects, engineers, environmental and social workers and refugee administrators. The intercultural nature of the Unit and its Associate Members provides the ideal forum for participants from the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Europe. In addition, we are interested in attracting students that are already attending architectural, planning, or engineering courses in the UK, and are interested in exploring the issue of reconstruction following war.

The main objectives is to equip participants with planning and management skills in the various phases of post-war reconstruction including emergency action, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The course will cover the following topics: Development of Management Skills; Needs Assessment and Resource Evaluation; Formulation of Reconstruction Policies; Evaluation of International Experiences; social, cultural and psychological issues; Reconstruction and Relocation Planning; Emergency Repair of Historic Buildings; Refugee Administration; Reconstruction and Sustainable Development; Training and Research; and Monitoring and Project Evaluation.

For further information, please write to: The Secretary, Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit, IoAAS, The King's Manor, York, YO1 2EP, United Kingdom. Tel.: (0904) 433966, Fax.: (0904) 433949.

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### Integrated Disaster Management and Development of Local Training
### Disaster Management Centre
### 14 June - 16 July 1993, Oxford, United Kingdom

The major objectives of the course are to train individuals in various phases of disaster management including emergency, preparedness, rehabilitation and mitigation planning, and also to provide them with the skills to simulate similar training programmes in their own countries or countries of work.

The programme will cover the following topics: *Week I:* Risk Assessment, and Strategies for Training and Education in Disaster Planning. *Week II:* Emergency Management and Leadership Development for the Organization of Training Courses. *Week III:* Preparedness Planning and Teaching Aids and learning Tools. *Week IV:* Mitigation Planning and Teaching Aids and Learning Methods. *Week V:* Reconstruction and Developing National Training Programmes in Disaster Management.

For further information, please contact: Disaster Management Centre, Department of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3OPB, United Kingdom. Tel.: (0865) 819455 &819230, Fax.: (0865) 819298, Telex G83147 VIA.

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### Emergency Planning 93
### 2nd International Conference
### 11 - 14 July 1993, Lancaster, United Kingdom

Emergency Planning '93 is an international conference for all those involved in emergency planning and disaster management and will provide a forum to discuss how best to improve our understanding of the complexities of planning for, and responding to, man-made and natural disasters.

The Conference will provide a unique opportunity for delegates to examine issues of international importance in disaster response and prevention, to acquaint themselves with the latest technological developments, and to learn from the practical experience of fellow professionals.

Emergency Planning '91, the first conference in this international series was held in September 1991 and was attended by some 300 delegates from 24 countries who presented nearly 100 papers.

Emergency Planning '93 is a conference for both "practitioners" and their "political masters". In addition to professional planners and managers, the Conference is relevant to international agencies, the voluntary sector, the legal profession, public utilities, the armed services and academics.

Further details can be obtained from: Emergency Planning '93, Conference Office, Bowland College, Lancaster University, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YT, United Kingdom. Tel.: (0524) 594247, Fax.: (0524) 843695, Telex: 65111 Lancul G, Email gya013@lancs.ccn1.

### Cranfield Disaster Preparedness Centre
### Counter-Disaster Staff Training
### 13 July - 19 August 1993 - Shrivenham Swindon - United Kingdom

The Cranfield DPC will be mounting its sixth annual counter-disaster staff training programme.

The course is designed for senior/middle management in the range of government, public services, armed forces and non governmental organizations whose responsibilities embrace pre-disaster planning and response to disasters and emergencies from both natural and man-made causes.

The objectives of the course are to develop effective and experienced working capabilities in these areas and this is achieved learning in small, well integrated working groups.

For full details, advice on applications for vacancies and funding sources, by mail or telefax to: Director, Cranfield Disaster Preparedness Centre, RMCS (Cranfield), Shrivenham, Swindon, SN6 8LA, United Kingdom. Tel.: (0793) 785287 or 785313, Fax.: (0793) 782179 or 783878, Telex 9312111378 HM G Ref WJJ110.

# Book Review

### "The Earth Summit's Agenda for Change
### *A plain language version of Agenda 21 and the other Rio Agreement*"

A 70-page book explaining in clear terms what was decided in Rio. It is important to read it because the Rio decisions have the potential to change the way of living and working from now into the next century.

Published by the Centre for Our Common Future, 52, rue des Pâquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

Written by Michael Keating. Available in English, French, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Unit Price: US $10.-. From 20 or more copies: US $7.50.

Packing and postage are included. Discount on bulk purchases available. Centre's account: No. 288 867 01 Q, Union Bank of Switzerland, Geneva.

# Reader's Corner

## *"From Children to Children"*

### *Geneva school collects funds for Somalia*

*In March a check in the amount of Swiss Francs 400.- representing donations by students of the "Ecole Moser - Chêne-Bougeries - Geneva (classe de la 4ème) for the children of Somalia was handed over to Mr. Philippe Boullé, Chief of the Information and Resource Mobilization Branch.*

*We sincerely wish to thank all the students who have contributed to this humanitarian gesture.* ■

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